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Turks and Caicos Islands

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. The Territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands[1] is the largest of the dependent Caribbean territories of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprising 40 islands and cays. These islands form the south-eastern extremity of the Bahamas chain and lie 145 kilometres north of Haiti and the Dominican Republic and 925 km south-east of Miami, United States of America. The islands and cays are split into two groups by a deep water channel, with a total land area of 500 square kilometres. Limited rainfall, coupled with poor soils and a limestone base, restrict the possibilities for agricultural development. The islands have important wetland and reef habitats and provide a home for 14 endemic plants and reptiles.

2. Of these islands, only six are permanently inhabited: Grand Turk, where the capital, Cockburn Town, is located; Salt Cay; South Caicos; Middle Caicos; North Caicos and Providenciales. In addition, there are a number of hotel developments and holiday homes on smaller cays. The islands are sparsely inhabited with a population density of approximately 34 persons per square kilometre. The total population of the Territory was estimated to be about 24,000 in 1999, including some 5,000 to 6,000 immigrants from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Historically, there has been a flow of emigration from the Islands, mainly to the United States and the Bahamas. Within the Islands, there has been net migration towards Providenciales since the mid-1980s. Most of the population resides on the two principal islands, Grand Turk, which is the administrative capital, and Providenciales, which is the business centre of the islands. Of the other populated islands, South Caicos has 10.5 per cent of the total population; North Caicos 11.1 per cent; Middle Caicos has 2.3 per cent; and Salt Cay, 1.8 per cent.[2] It is estimated that foreigners make up 50 per cent of the population. Most of the people are of African descent, the rest being mixed or of European origin. English is the main language, with some Creole spoken by Haitian immigrants. The religion is Christianity; the Anglican Communion predominates. Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14, and is provided free in schools run by the Government. A national census is scheduled for 2001.

II. Historical background

3. The Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered by the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon in 1512, and they were then probably uninhabited. They remained unsettled by Europeans until 1678, when Bermudans arrived and established a solar salt industry. The Islands were settled by royalist sympathizers from the United States after the War of Independence; they established cotton plantations, employing slaves. In 1799, the Islands were annexed by the Government of the Bahama Islands, but in 1848 they were granted a separate charter. Between 1833 and 1843 slavery was abolished and the plantation owners left the Islands, leaving their former slaves in possession. From 1874 to 1959, the Turks and Caicos Islands were governed by Britain as a dependency of Jamaica and placed under the authority of the British Governor-General at Kingston, Jamaica. The Islands became a separate colony of the United Kingdom in 1962, when Jamaica became independent. For a time in the 1960s and 1970s, the Islands were under the control of the Bahama Islands, but with Bahamian independence in 1973 the Turks and Caicos were placed under a British Governor at Grand Turk.[3]

III. Constitutional and legal background

4. The Turks and Caicos Islands are described as "an internal self-governing Overseas Territory with a ministerial system of government" by the administering Power, the United Kingdom. Under the provisions of the 1976 Constitution amended in 1988, executive power is vested in the Governor, appointed by the Queen. The Constitution also provides for an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Governor is responsible for foreign affairs, internal security, defence, the appointment of public officers, offshore finance and certain other matters, but is otherwise normally required to act on the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of the Governor, six elected members of the Legislative Council and two official members (Chief Secretary and Attorney General). The Legislative Council consists of 19 members. There are 13 representatives elected by popular vote, 3 appointed by the Governor and 3 ex officio members of the Executive Council.

5. The legal system, based on English Common law, includes a Supreme Court and a Court of Appeal, and has provision for appeal to the Privy Council in London. The Attorney General and Chief Justice are currently United Kingdom technical co-operation officers, as are the Senior Crown Counsel, the Legal Draftsman, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and the Head of the Criminal Investigation Division. The Police Development Project supports the provision of a further two technical co-operation officers: an Assistant Commissioner of Police and a Financial Crimes Investigation Officer.

6. In September 1996, John Kelley, who was a former Deputy Governor of Bermuda, was appointed Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

IV. Political background and developments

7. There are two main political parties, the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), formed in 1975, and the Progressive National Party (PNP), formed in 1980. A third party, the United Democratic Party (UDP), was set up in 1993. Parliamentary elections are held at intervals of not more than four years.

8. In 1995, PDM defeated PNP. In the most recent general election held on 4 March 1999, PDM was re-elected under the leadership of Derek Taylor as Chief Minister, and a Legislative Council with a barely altered composition from the January 1995 poll.

9. The People's Democratic Movement, which formed the Government between 1976 and 1980, had led the demands for independence during the 1970s. The Progressive National Party, dropped these demands when it won the 1980 election.

10. In March 1999, the Government of the United Kingdom issued a White Paper on the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, entitled "Partnership for progress and prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" (for the text of the White Paper, see A/AC.109/1999/1, annex; for its key recommendations, see A/AC.109/1999/18, para. 37). Following the publication of this White Paper, the status of the territory, along with that of all the other territories, changed from being a "dependent" territory to become an "Overseas Territory" of the United Kingdom.

V. Economic conditions

A. General

11. The traditional economic activity, salt production, ceased in 1964. For the next two decades, the economy depended on fishing, some tourism and government employment. Agriculture is almost non-existent due to the low rainfall and high soil salinity. Practically all consumer goods and most foodstuffs are imported. Natural resources are limited and even water has to be strictly conserved. In the 1960s and 1970s, thousands migrated to nearby Bahamas and the United States to seek work. This trend has now been reversed as the economy has improved.

12. Since the 1980s, the main source of foreign exchange has been tourism and financial services. As also noted in appendix 1 to the above-mentioned White Paper, the economy of the Turks and Caicos Islands is based primarily on tourism and offshore finance. The opening of a Club Méditerranée village on Providenciales at the end of 1983 and the accompanying provision of an international airport under the United Kingdom's aid programme gave the Islands a considerable boost.

13. The increasing emphasis on the service sector has its drawbacks. Owing to the competitive nature of the global market for both tourism and offshore finance and the dependence on growth in developed countries, the Turks and Caicos Islands are increasingly vulnerable to fluctuations in the international economy, in particular to that of the United States.

14. Foreign investors, mainly from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, play a significant role in the Islands' economic life. The main areas of private investment are tourism property development, real estate, international finance and fishing, focused on the island of Providenciales. With heightened investment interest in the Turks and Caicos Islands, it is expected that economic growth will continue for the foreseeable future.

15. The economy grew strongly in the 1990s with the expansion of tourism and offshore financial sectors. After 1995, however, when real GDP expansion reached 13.5 per cent, the rate slowed, falling to a still robust 8.7 per cent in 1999.[4] In 1999, the economy continued to benefit from unprecedented economic expansion in the United States economy. The rate of

inflation remained low and growth continued to be fuelled by expansion of the service sector. Associated with the strong performance in the tourism sector was robust activity in the construction sector.[5]

B. Public finance

16. Usually the current budget is in substantial deficit and this — together with investment spending — is covered by funding from the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, the European Union and multilateral agencies. The Government levies no taxes on corporate or personal income, capital gains or inheritance. The largest component of current revenue is customs duty, while company registration fees and tourism levies have produced an increased share in recent years.[4]

17. In addition to attracting offshore investors as a means of stimulating private sector activity, the Government has embarked on an aggressive programme to strengthen financial management in the public sector; improve the productivity of the civil service; reduce the rate of growth in government spending; improve the efficiency of State-owned corporations and enhance revenue collection efforts.

18. Budget revenue for fiscal year April 1998 to March 1999 was $57,740,288 and expenditure was US$ 53,558,830. The estimated revenue for 1999/2000 is $61,820,662, with an expenditure of $61,969,518, showing a deficit of $148,856.[6] According to a performance assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank, in 1998/99 Turks and Caicos Islands showed the strongest growth among regional economies, with its GDP expansion of 8.7 per cent.[7]

19. In its budget projection for 2000-2001, the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands estimates a total revenue of $67,051,624 and expenditures at $67,111,389. The Government expects to collect 44 per cent of the revenue from duties; 15 per cent from fees and charges; 13 per cent from licences; 1 per cent from rent; 16 per cent from taxes and 11 per cent from other sources. Its recurrent expenditures are projected at 30 per cent for education, health, youth and sports; 11.2 per cent for public works; 13.6 per cent for communication, transport and tourism; 3.3 per cent for natural resources; 6.9 per cent for home affairs; 7.9 per cent for police; 21.1 per cent for the Office of the Chief Minister; 0.5 per cent for the Office of the Governor; 2.3 per cent for the Office of the Chief Secretary; 1.5 per cent for Attorney General's Chambers; 1.2 per cent for the Judiciary and 0.5 per cent for the auditors.

20. The Government's capital budget estimates form the basis of the public sector investment programme, which is financed through the Development Fund. The Fund was established for the purpose of receiving such monies as may be appropriated annually from the Consolidated Fund, together with other monies received from external donors.

21. External donors include the Government of the United Kingdom, whose funds are administered through the Dependent Territories Regional Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP has a small programme of assistance and miscellaneous assistance is received from a number of other sources.

22. The actual Development Budget Expenditure for 1998/99 was $11.5 million, of which $5.4 million was funded by Turks and Caicos Islands. Total expenditure for 1999/2000 is forecast at $21.5 million, of which the territorial Government will fund $10.7 million.[6]

C. Public service

23. The Government is the main employer, accounting for about one third of the employed population. According to information provided by the administering Power, the Government is committed to developing a cadre of highly professional, self-confident, and highly motivated Turks and Caicos Islanders for its Civil Service. Ongoing reforms include a review of pay and grade structures, new guidelines and an increased emphasis on training. Particular areas of its attention were law and order, education and health.

D. Offshore financial services

24. Some 3,376 new companies registered in 1996 to make a total of 20,717. In 1997, according to statistics provided by the Office of the Accountant-General, this fell to 3,300 new registrations and an overall total of 17,973 registered companies. Government income from company registration has been rising steadily, reaching $2.8 million in 1997/98.[4]

25. Offshore finance has been an area of growth and the second largest source of external revenue after tourism. New legislation and the Offshore Finance Centre Unit have been designed to regulate and promote the growth of offshore finance and encourage banking, insurance and trust companies. The regulatory structure set up through the Banking Ordinance of 1979 and the Companies and Insurance Ordinance of 1981 was updated and extended in 1990 and 1992. There are four commercial banks, including the Bank of Nova Scotia, which has two branches, and Barclays, which has one.[4] Some 2,000 offshore insurance companies have been licensed. Government revenue from offshore financial services was over $6 million in 1997/98.[8]

26. Constitutional responsibility for the Turks and Caicos Islands' offshore finance sector rests with the Governor. The United Kingdom Technical Cooperation Programme currently supports the sector through the provision of the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent of the Financial Services Commission.

27. Among the attractions for offshore companies are the use of the United States dollar as the official currency, the absence of direct taxation, a growing financial infrastructure, fast and straightforward company registration procedures, extensive financial freedom and confidentiality.

E. Agriculture, fisheries, construction and manufacturing

28. Agricultural production is small and concentrated in North Caicos. The sector has begun to grow recently, with more produce available for sale in Providenciales and the establishment of a new farmers' cooperative. In the 1998/99 budget, the territorial Government set aside funds for a comprehensive agriculture project for North and Middle Caicos, designed to grow food for sale to the tourism sector. The Government plans to designate land for agricultural development, provide these areas with an infrastructure, assist with their improvement and work with international donor agencies to provide the services of a full-time agronomist.

29. Fishing is a traditional activity and the only significant productive sector. Conch and lobster are the main catches. The Turks and Caicos Islands is home to the world's only commercial conch farm, raising domestic conch for export. Several fish farms are being developed on an experimental basis to produce tilapia for international markets.[9] About 20 per cent of the working population is involved in agriculture and fishing.[4]

30. An international construction company is based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Sand and rock are quarried locally for use in construction projects, most significantly for hotels and commercial buildings.[4]

31. Apart from the production of handicrafts for the tourism trade, the only manufacturing activity is the semi-processing of imported rice for re-export to the European Union (EU), benefiting from duty preferences under the Lomé Convention. Operations were begun in 1994 but reduced since early 1997, when the EU imposed restrictive quota on rice imports from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries via the overseas countries and territories regime.[4]

F. Tourism

32. Tourist arrivals in 1997/98 fell just short of 100,000. Tourist arrivals increased during 1999 to 120,898, up from 120,855 in 1998.[10] The Turks and Caicos Islands tourism sector continues to record one of the fastest growth rates in the entire Caribbean, and annual visitor arrivals are expected to see an increase in 2000. About 80 per cent of the tourists come from the United States and Canada.

33. The territorial Government's strategic development plan for tourism set out a strategy for development of sustainable tourism on the Turks and Caicos Islands. The expansion of the hotel industry has continued, with most facilities concentrated on Providenciales, which accounted for about 75 per cent of the total hotel-room capacity of some 1,600 in 1996.[11] In accordance with the territorial Government's commitment to promoting the economic development of all the Islands, the Government has promoted development projects on South Caicos, North Caicos, East Caicos and Middle Caicos. In addition, the Government has signed a development agreement for the Grand Turk Harbour Project as well as several new projects on Providenciales.

34. The territorial Government completed the construction of a new airport terminal in Providenciales. Keen to reduce its dependence on the United States market, the Government is holding strategic discussions with potential donors, including

the European Development Bank, to finance a lengthening of the runway at the Providenciales Airport to handle transatlantic flights. It has also made significant budgetary allocations to improve seaports and airports throughout the country and looks to encourage financing of infrastructure through strategic partnerships with investors.[5]

35. American Airlines has increased the number of regularly scheduled flights from nine per week to two per day year round. From February 2000, Trans World Airlines has inaugurated a non-stop weekly from New York to the Islands, and Air Jamaica has included the Turks and Caicos Islands in the expansion of its Caribbean service since April 2000.

G. Infrastructure

36. Transport and communication facilities are of a good standard, reflecting the Territory's relatively high income and the developing offshore financial sector. There are three international airports, on Providenciales, Grand Turk and South Caicos, and paved airstrips on Middle and North Caicos and Salt Cay. Regional services operate to the Bahamas, Haiti and the Dominican Republic; American Airlines and Trans World Airlines operate to the United States. Grand Turk, Providenciales, South Caicos and Salt Cay have ports. The road network covers about 130 kilometres, with paved roads on Grand Turk, Providenciales and the Caicos Islands.

37. Cable and Wireless provides domestic and international telephone services, with international direct dialling and a full range of telecommunications services. There are 12 cable channels on Grand Turk and 32 on Providenciales, and six radio stations. There are no daily newspapers. The *Free Press* and the *Turks and Caicos News* are published weekly, and the *Times of the Islands*, a magazine aimed at business and tourism, are issued quarterly.

38. All electricity services are operated by private companies, with diesel generators and to United States standards of supply and reliability.[4]

39. In order to facilitate a more balanced growth in the islands, a number of major studies have identified the need for port development in Providenciales and airport development in Grand Turk. Studies are to be undertaken in waste management and transport needs.

40. Emergency funding of $160,000 has been provided for temporary work on the terminals in Grand Turk and South Caicos. A total of $131,000 has been provided for remedial work at Grand Turk Dock. South Dock Provo is becoming a major constraint to movement of goods. The cost of expanding the port to meet forecast demand is estimated at $7 million. A plan is being developed to attract private tenders.

41. Funds are being budgeted for a new dock on North Caicos and to build a causeway bridge between North and Middle Caicos. Construction will be undertaken to improve and upgrade roads and a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank is being negotiated to upgrade the Leeward Highway.

42. Water projects to improve access to potable water, and an expanded water distribution network are to be commissioned during the year.[5]

VI. Social conditions

A. General

43. The expansion in the tourism and offshore finance sector has resulted in favourable economic growth, but activities in that area are concentrated almost totally on one island, Providenciales. Thus, economic opportunities are not equally distributed among the islands. Unemployment varies between 14 and 20 per cent on the other islands, while Providenciales boasts almost full employment. Inter-island migration is common, particularly migration to Grand Turk, the capital. A number of social problems, such as overcrowding, housing shortages and an increase in the number of female-headed households, have resulted from this skewed pattern of development.[12]

44. In recognition of this issue, in the 1998/99 budget presentation, the Chief Minister had stated:

> "Our Islands are experiencing an extreme form of uneven development. This has resulted in new, and exacerbated a number of existing, socio-economic challenges for the country. Key among these is the need to address the social and economic problems resulting from the unbalanced pattern of development occurring in the Turks and Caicos Islands, to develop the education and health sectors to ensure that Turks and Caicos

Islanders become active participants in the Islands' development, and the requirement for timely provision of essential infrastructure to give *all* the Islands an opportunity to develop in their own right."[13]

45. In his budgetary address on 27 March 2000, the Chief Minister stated that his Government remained committed to the social development of the islands and the continual strengthening of the education and health services. Some services, however, were affected by the demographic changes taking place in the Islands.

B. Housing

46. In 1997/98, the territorial Government adopted a national housing policy. The first project to be implemented under this policy is the Shelter Development Project, which was designed to address housing difficulties experienced by low-income Turks and Caicos Islanders. This project includes infrastructure improvements in designated areas of Five Cays, Providenciales, and the establishment of a special mortgage programme for the renovation and extension of the homes of people in the target income group. The Government has now established the Housing Department to lead its efforts to improve the quality of housing stock and oversee the $2 million Shelter Development Project over the next two years.

C. Employment

47. During 1999, the territorial Government completed the Country Poverty Assessment Report and will be presenting it to the Executive Council. A National Consultation was held in March 2000, and the report is currently being debated by the public. According to this report, national unemployment is about 12.6 per cent. Regional differences were significant. Providenciales, Grand Turk and North Caicos had rates below the average, while the remaining islands registered rates of 20-24 per cent. Unemployment on Providenciales is the result of an imbalance between demand and supply for skills and the unwillingness of many "Belongers" (local islanders) to take certain jobs. This has led to a dependence on immigration and an influx of immigrant workers.

48. Of an estimated population of 24,000, some 5,000 to 6,000 immigrants are from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Turks and Caicos Islands lie directly in the path of Haitian boat people attempting to reach the United States or the Bahamas. As a result, many have arrived illegally in the territory in recent years (having also been attracted by employment opportunities on fast-developing Providenciales). A 15-month-long programme to repatriate them voluntarily or regularize their stay, under the auspices of the International Organization for Migration and with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, began in January 1997. This programme provided for the processing of approximately 1,000 migrants who qualified for permanent residence in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and assisted some 3,500 with their return to and reintegration into Haiti. The immigration authorities have tightened the regulations governing the migrant workforce.[14] The territorial Government seeks the support of the United Kingdom Government and the Haitian Government to assist its efforts to enforce existing laws and regulations governing migrant workers.[5]

D. Education

49. Education in the Territory is free and compulsory for children between 5 and 16 years of age. There are 14 government-run primary schools and 4 government-run secondary schools. The adult literacy rate is 98 per cent.[15] The pupil-teacher ratio averages 25:1. The overall goal of the sector is to prepare the population for employment opportunities that will arise as the pace of development increases.[16] According to information provided by the administering Power, the Government of the Territory continues to work towards improving the education sector, with concentration on staff training and a successful drug awareness programme sponsored by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Changing enrolment patterns, in particular the growth in the number of students on Providenciales, remains a key concern of the education sector. More than $10 million is planned for investments in the education sector over the next several years; these will include improvements in infrastructure, training, and planning and management reforms, as well as the commencement of a national literacy programme.

50. According to the Chief Minister, the Government is committed to a five-year education plan as the main planning document guiding the education sector in critical areas of institutional strengthening, human resource management and the timely provision of infrastructure.[5]

51. A significant expansion of education facilities has already taken place according to the Chief Minister. Further inputs of over $1.6 million from the United Kingdom, $2.2 million from the Caribbean Development Bank and $0.5 million from the territorial Government are to be made to continue the upgrading of the primary and secondary schools and the Community College.

E. Health

52. Basic health care is available on the islands through a network of primary health care clinics and one hospital, located on Grand Turk, the capital island. The Government has sought to address infrastructure needs, especially on the island of Providenciales, which has a high population growth rate.[16]

53. According to the Governor, the Islands have embarked upon an initiative in the area of health-care provision. The national health vision and plan, a United Kingdom bilateral aid-funded project, will determine the type of health service suitable for the Turks and Caicos Islands in the next five years. It will identify staffing and equipment requirement, building needs and the extent to which overseas treatment requirements can be integrated into a Turks and Caicos Islands health service. Its aim is to provide an affordable and efficient health service for all residents and visitors.[17]

54. Over the next year or two, nearly $1 million will be spent to upgrade Grand Turk Hospital, while $0.6 million will be spent on Myrtle Rigby Clinic, to cover essential needs. The various island clinics are to be upgraded with funding provided by the Caribbean Development Bank under its basic needs trust programme over the next two years. A clinical nursing curriculum has been developed and is scheduled to commence in September 2000 at the Community College to help reduce the dependence on expatriate staff.

55. The Government remains steadfast in the fight against acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and drug abuse. A national AIDS programme has been formulated to raise awareness through improved information, education and communication programmes.

F. Drugs and drug trafficking

56. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force attachments to the Police Force have enhanced the Turks and Caicos Islands' ability to combat drug trafficking. The Islands enjoy close cooperation with the United States and Bahamian narcotics agencies under an agreement extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1990, thus allowing for combined United States/Turks and Caicos Islands/Bahamas interdiction operations. In one operation in February 1998, the Turks and Caicos Islands authorities seized over two tonnes of cocaine.

G. Environment

57. The Chief Minister noted in his budget speech in March 2000 that the $1.6 million grant from the administering Power to facilitate the implementation of the territorial Government's coastal resource management project had been delayed but the project is now well under way to establish a National Park Service to help protect the coral reefs and coastal areas. This project will also help construct a national environmental centre on Providenciales, and fund awareness programmes to educate the public on the benefits of the national parks. It is also intended to address the degradation of the natural resources caused by increases in population pressure and tourist arrivals.[18]

H. United Kingdom Development Assistance

58. According to the administering Power, the future development strategy for the Islands was discussed in the context of the country policy plan negotiated in 1999. The last bilateral assistance programme focused on the development of the civil service, the provision of technical cooperation officers and expertise to assist the Government over a wide range of public service activities, the development of "gateways" legislation on financial services, and the strengthening of judiciary and democratic institutions. The programme focused

on the provision of support in the education and health sectors.[19]

VII. Participation in international organizations and arrangements

59. The Turks and Caicos Islands were admitted as an associate member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in July 1991.

60. UNDP assistance continues under a new 1998/2003 country programme. Areas of emphasis for the new programme include technical assistance in excess of $780,000 for small enterprise development, the national integrated development plan, and the reintroduction of the United Nations Volunteers programme. According to the territorial Government, these core programmes are designed to utilize the comparative advantage of the United Nations system to promote entrepreneurial development among Turks and Caicos Islanders and enhance the development planning process in the country.

VIII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Power

61. As cited in resolutions of the General Assembly on the Turks and Caicos Islands (see General Assembly resolution 54/90 B, part X), the representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands stated in 1997 that there was a lack of adequate visible development of the process of self-determination in the Territory. They stated that there was the political will on the part of the territorial leaders for a more advanced Constitution which would enable an orderly transfer of power to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. They said that the administering Power should accelerate the process of equipping and preparing the people of the Territory to evaluate properly the available options of self-determination and, with that in view, emphasized that the advancement of the political, economic, social and educational institutions in the Territory was of paramount importance.[20]

62. In his 1998/99 budget presentation the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands had stated: "Whilst we welcome the new United Kingdom Government's White Paper on development and the outcome of the recent London meetings, we remain concerned that too many delays have affected the bilateral aid programme."

63. In his speech from the throne given on 25 May 1999, the Governor also referred to the White Paper and stated that the Legislative Council would debate the three main issues raised, namely, British citizenship, human rights and offshore financial services, and make any changes to the laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands, if necessary.

B. Position of the administering Power

64. In her statement to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 6 October 1999 (A/C.4/54/SR.5), the representative of the United Kingdom said that over the past year her Government had made further progress in its efforts to transform its relationship with its Overseas Territories into a fully modern partnership based on the four principles of self-determination, mutual obligations, freedom for the Territories to run their affairs to the greatest degree possible and a firm commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories economically as well as assist them in emergencies. The United Kingdom was prepared to consider any proposals about their future put forward by the peoples of the Territories themselves.

C. Consideration by the General Assembly

65. On 6 December 1999, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/90 B, a consolidated resolution on 11 Non-Self-Governing Territories, section X of which is specifically devoted to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Notes

[1] The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations on 20 May 1999.

[2] See DP/CCF/TCI/1, para. 3.

[3] Encyclopaedia Britannica, accessed at: Britannica.com.

[4] Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), *Country Profile: Turks and Caicos Islands, 2000/2001*.

[5] Chief Minister's budget address, 27 March 2000.

[6] Turks and Caicos Islands Government budget 2000-2003.

[7] Comtex Scientific Corporation, *News Edge*, 3 March 2000.

[8] *The Island Connoisseur*, Turks and Caicos Islands, government and economy, accessed at: www.islandconnoisseur.com/turks/govern.htm

[9] *1998 Caribbean Basin Profile*.

[10] EIU, *Country Outlook: Turks and Caicos Islands*, EIU newswire, 14 April 2000.

[11] EIU — *Country Profile: Turks and Caicos Islands*, EIU newswire, 10 May 2000.

[12] *1998 Caribbean Basin Profile*.

[13] Statement on the 1998/99 budget address by the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands on 19 March 1998.

[14] British Overseas Territories, White Paper, appendix one.

[15] *1998 Caribbean Basin Profile*.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Governor's throne speech, May 1999.

[18] *Turks and Caicos Weekly News*, October 1998.

[19] British Overseas Territories, White Paper, appendix 1.

[20] See A/AC.109/2089, para. 29.